

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT 2006

The City of Santa Clara is committed to providing you, the water consumer, with a safe and reliable supply of high quality drinking water. Each year we publish our annual water quality report known as the Consumer Confidence Report. This is our 18th annual report on water quality. It contains the latest water quality monitoring results obtained through the end of calendar year 2005. It answers some of the most common water quality questions asked by our customers. We hope it will provide the facts and perspectives you need to make an informed evaluation of your tap water.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the State Department of Health Services prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Department of Health Services regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that provide the same protection for public health.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and State regulations. Although the water you receive is tested for over 100 potential contaminants and 48 other parameters, the majority of the potential contaminants are never detected. To simplify the report, only the constituents that were detected in at least one water source appear in the water quality table. We are also required by the State to provide additional information about certain constituents that appear on the water quality table even though the water meets all applicable drinking water standards.

Q: Where does our water come from?

A: The City of Santa Clara has three separate sources of drinking water. Often, these sources are used interchangeably or are blended together. Together, these sources provide an average of 21 million gallons of water per day to the homes, businesses, industries and institutions of Santa Clara. About 38% of our water is treated surface water purchased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and from the San Francisco Public Utility Commission's Hetch Hetchy System (imported from the Sierra Nevada Mountains).

District water serves primarily the southwesterly portion of the City. Hetch Hetchy water typically serves the area north of Highway 101. The remaining 62% is pumped from our system of 26 deep wells serving the rest of the City. Refer to the map at the end of this report. It shows the general areas served by the different water sources.

Q: What are the standards that drinking water must meet?

A: The quality of drinking water is carefully regulated by the Federal Government. In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to establish uniform standards for drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act was further amended in 1986 and 1996, adding even more stringent standards. In California, these standards are enforced by the California Department of Health Services (CADHS), Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management.

There are two types of drinking water standards. **PRIMARY STAN-DARDS** are designed to protect public health. These standards specify the limits, called "Maximum Contaminant Levels" (MCLs)

for substances in water that may be harmful to humans or affect their health if consumed in large quantities. **SECONDARY STAN-DARDS** are based on aesthetic qualities of water such as color, taste and odor. These standards specify limits for substances that may affect consumer acceptance of the water. Both Primary and Secondary Standards are listed in this Report.

Q: Is there any lead contamination in the City's drinking water?

A: There is no evidence of lead contamination in the City of Santa Clara groundwater sources or supplies purchased from other agencies. It is possible for lead levels in your home to be higher than other homes in the community because of materials used in the original construction of your home.

Infants and young children are typically more vulnerable to lead in the drinking water than the general, adult population. If you are concerned about lead levels in your home, you may wish to

have your water tested. Flushing water from the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before use can also reduce the potential amount of copper and lead in the water because lead levels in water are typically higher after the water has remained in plumbing fixtures for a long time. Additional information is available at the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791.

Q: Is fluoride added to our water?

A: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter. Fluoridation adjusts the naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water to the ideal level for protecting your teeth. Fluoridated drinking water benefits people of all ages by preventing tooth decay.

In November of last year, the SFPUC Hetch Hetchy system completed construction of a new fluoridation facility in the east bay. The water purchased by the City from the SFPUC is fluoridated. If your zip code is 95054 you are in the area receiving fluoridated water. There is also a map near the end of this report that shows the area supplied with water from the Hetch Hetchy system. If you are in the area receiving fluoridated water, you or your children no longer need to take fluoride supplements such as pills or drops.

The majority of the City will continue to receive water without added fluoride. State law requires the addition of fluoride to all water systems in California serving 10,000 customers or more. Fluoridation of the remaining water sources in the City would require installation of fluoride injecting equipment at each of the City's 26 active wells and at its treated water connection from the District. The law includes a provision for state funds to finance this fluoridation equipment, however, it may be some time before the state can provide funding to move forward with a fluoridation program for the remainder of the City.

Contaminants that occur in drinking water obtained from surface sources and underground sources:

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial (microbiological) contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from wildlife, agriculture and/or livestock operations, sewage treatment plants and septic systems;
- Inorganic contaminants such as salts and metals, occurring

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naturally or resulting from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming;

- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses;
- Organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic compounds. These are by-products of industrial processes, petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, agricultural chemical and fertilizer applications, and septic systems;
- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or result from oil and gas production and mining.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants, including Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline at 1-800-426-4791. You may also contact the USEPA at www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html.

Cryptosporidium and Giardia in water resources:

Cryptosporidiosis is a disease of the intestinal tract brought on by a parasitic microbe (a protozoan) called Cryptosporidium. The disease is transmitted through contaminated water, food or direct contact with human or animal waste. If you are healthy with a normal immune system, the flu-like symptoms usually last about two weeks. Symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, upset stomach and slight fever. However, if your immune system is compromised or artificially suppressed, complications of this disease can be serious, possibly life-threatening.

The water purchased by the City from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy system has been tested for Cryptosporidium and Giardia. The source waters and treated waters are tested at least monthly and occasionally show very low levels of Cryptosporidium in the waters serving the East Bay, South Bay and San Francisco Peninsula. Giardia, another parasitic organism causing similar symptoms, is monitored with the same frequency and very low levels are occasionally detected in the same source waters.

The general public is at very low risk and there have been no reported cases of Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis attributed to the City's public water supply. This advisory applies to water received from the Hetch Hetchy system in the area of the City north of Highway 101. The state Department of Health Services issues guidance for people with serious immune system problems. Currently available guidance from the state and county health agencies recommends that people with such conditions consult with their doctor or primary health care provider about preventing Cryptosporidium and Giardia infection from all potential sources. Water consumers may choose to boil their drinking water at a rolling boil for at least one minute as an extra precaution.

For information about Cryptosporidiosis and Giardiasis, or copies of available guidance, contact the Santa Clara County Department of Environmental Health at (408) 299-6564. You may also contact the USEPA Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

<u>Information and guidance for people with compromised immune systems:</u>

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791), or on the EPA's web site www.epa.gov/safewater/hfacts.html.

Information about Radon in drinking water and the environment:

Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, taste or smell. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up

to significant levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water during showering, washing dishes and other household activities. Compared to radon entering the home through soil, radon entering the home through tap water will, in most cases, be a very small source of radon in the indoor air.

Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air that contains radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause an increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, have the air tested. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon is greater than 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem and they are not too costly. For additional information, contact the EPA's Radon Hotline at 1-800-SOS-RADON.

Information about Nitrates in groundwater resources:

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 mg/L is a health risk for infants less than six months old. Such nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of the skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain specific enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant, or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRINKING WATER SOURCE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM:

The City has completed a Drinking Water Source Assessment Program and Plan (DWSAP) for the groundwater sources. The DWSAP was completed in August 2002 and submitted to the DHS in December 2002. A copy of the DWSAP is available at the City's Water Utility offices at 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara. You may request a summary of the individual assessments by contacting the Water Utility at (408) 615-2000 or by email at water@ci.santa-clara.ca.us.

The City's groundwater sources are considered most vulnerable to contamination by leaking underground tanks containing fuel or drycleaning chemicals; old, unrecorded septic systems; storm drain dry wells located at various places around the City; many old, shallow, private wells, abandoned and not properly destroyed; and possibly some contaminants from a small landfill dump left over from the early years of the 20th century.

The City owns and operates 26 active deep wells. Only one well shows measurable contamination from regulated solvents, Well 24. The contaminant is 1,1,1-TCA, a solvent attributed to a plume from a near-by CERCLA (Superfund) site. Refer to the accompanying table for details.

The City purchases water from the City of San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Hetch Hetchy System. The SFPUC aggressively protects the natural water resources entrusted to its care, and continuously monitors the Hetch Hetchy watershed, weather conditions, water turbidity levels, microbial contaminants and aqueduct disinfection levels. The SFPUC complies with monitoring and reporting requirements to protect its watersheds and to update its watershed sanitary surveys for the Hetch Hetchy supply annually. The 2003 annual update on the Watershed Control Program and Sanitary Survey describes the watersheds and water supply system, identifies potential sources of contamination in the watersheds, discusses the existing and recommended watershed management practices that protect water quality, and summarizes the water quality monitoring conducted.

The SFPUC completed a detailed drinking water source assessment in 2000. The assessment showed that SFPUC watersheds have very low levels of contaminants, and those contaminants found are associated with wildlife and to a limited extent, human recreational activity. If you would like to review a copy of the assessment in the SFPUC offices, please call toll-free at (877) 737-8297.

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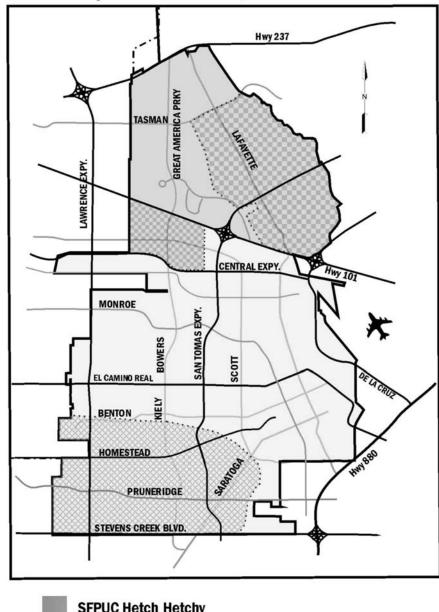
The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) provides treated surface water to our water system from three water treatment plants. District surface water is imported from the South Bay Aqueduct, Lake Del Valle and San Luis Reservoir, which all draw water from the Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta watershed. The District's local water sources include Anderson and Calero Reservoirs. The District's source waters are vulnerable to potential contamination from a variety of land use practices, such as agricultural and urban runoff, recreational activities, livestock grazing, and residential and industrial development. The imported sources are also vulnerable to wastewater treatment plant discharges, seawater intrusion, and wildland fires in open space areas. In addition, local sources are vulnerable to potential contamination from commercial stables and historic mining practices. No contaminant associated with any of these activities has been detected in the District's treated water. The water treatment plants provide multiple barriers for physical removal and disinfection of contaminants. For additional information, visit the District website at www.valleywater.org.

It is important to us that you, the water consumer, have current and factual information about your water supply. In this latest issue of our

Report, we hope to further your understanding and strengthen your confidence in the quality and integrity of the water supplied to you by the City of Santa Clara. We take great pride in delivering the safest and highest quality water available.

If you have any questions about the information in this report, or if you want to participate in water quality related issues, please call us at (408) 615-2000. You may also attend regularly scheduled City Council meetings at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara.

City of Santa Clara, California



SFPUC Hetch Hetchy

Blend of SFPUC Hetch Hetchy and Well Water

City of Santa Clara Well Water

A Blend of Well Water and SCVWD treated surface water

If you would like to learn more about drinking water quality, treatment and regulation, contact these home pages on the Internet:

- American Water Works Association: http://www.awwa.org
- California Department of Health Services, Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management: http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/org/ps/ddwem
- United States Environmental Protection Agency: http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Water Quality Bureau: http://better.sfwater.org
- Santa Clara Valley Water District: http://www.valleywater.org
- Water Education Foundation: http://www.water-ed.org
- Water Quality Information Center: http://www.nal.usda.gov/wqic

Attencion: Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre su agua beber. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

此份有關你的食水報告,內有重要資料和訊息,請找 他人為你翻譯及解釋清楚。

Chi tiết này thật quan trọng. Xin nhờ người dịch cho quý vị.

이 안내는 매우 중요합니다. 본인을 위해 번역인을 사용하십시요.

यह सूचना महत्वपूर्ण है । कृपा करके किसी से :सका अनुवाद करायें ।

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Mahalaga ang impormasyong ito. Mangyaring ipasalin ito.

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Note				decay and/or	erosion of n	atural deposits.						
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Page Free	Corrosivity (Aggressiveness Index, AI)											Physical characteristic of water
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Federal State WATER ANALYSES ANALYSE	Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)											•
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Vanadium ppm = parts per million Abbreviations and units: NS = No Standardμmhos/cm = micromhos per centimeter ND = None Detected

ND TON = Threshold Odor Number AL = Action Level< = less than > = greater than

Natural deposits

ppb = parts per billion pCi/L = picocuries per liter MFL = Million Fibers per Liter NTU = Turbidity Units NA = not available

FOOTNOTES AND DEFINITIONS:

- (1) Water quality data based on 2005 data, or as noted, and as set forth in 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142, National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 116470.
- (2) Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- (3) Public Health Goal (PHG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHGs are unenforceable targets set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.
- (4) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to PHGs and MCLGs as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.
- (5) Primary Drinking Water Standard (PDWS): MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

- (6) Fluoride Standard is 2.0 ppm for systems that do not treat the water in the distribution system.
- (7) Corrosivity is based on the Aggressiveness Index (AI): <10 is aggressive; 10 to 12 is moderately aggressive; and >12 is non-aggressive.
- (8) Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level for Aluminum for consumer acceptance is 200 ppb.
- (9) The Federal Action Level for lead is 15 ppb.
- (10) Action Level at the 90th Percentile. The regulatory Action Level (AL) is the concentration of any contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other required action which a water system must follow. The Federal Action Level for Copper is 1.3 ppm (= 1300 ppb).
- (11) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) is the level of a disinfectant added for water treatment that may not be exceeded at the consumer's tap. MRDLs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- (12) Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) is the level of a disinfectant added for water treatment below which there is no known or expected health risk. MRDLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- (13) The sample collected from Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant effluent on 7/16/2005 had a color result above the SMCL. There is no health effect due to this exceedance.

In addition to the above constituents, we have conducted monitoring of additional organic chemicals and additional inorganic chemicals and characteristics for which the California Department of Health Services and the USEPA have not yet set a standard and all results were below detection limits unless otherwise noted. For additional water quality data contact Chris de Groot, Compliance Manager, at (408) 615-2014; fax (408) 247-0784 and email at cdegroot@ci.santa-clara.ca.us, during regular business hours.